

WORLD MOURNS ROOSEVELT'S DEATH

New President Confirms Victory Pledge

Three More Ninth Armored Divisions Reach Elbe River

BY BOYD D. LEWIS

Paris, April 13.—(UP)—American paratroopers and armored task forces were reported unofficially only 16 miles from Berlin today and field dispatches said three more Ninth Army Divisions had reached the Elbe river on a 75-mile front arcing within 45 miles of the doomed capital.

Stiff fighting continued in the Elbe fortress of Magdeburg, but the supporting divisions moving up to join the battle of Berlin advanced 37 to 60 miles in less than 24 hours in their breakthrough to the Elbe.

Unconfirmed reports said American paratroopers had landed barely 16 miles from the city gates and linked up with the Second Armored Division in that area.

Strong infantry forces already were ramming across the Elbe in the wake of the armored leaders to exploit the breakthrough effected 24 hours near Magdeburg, 60 miles southwest of the capital.

At the same time, three more Ninth Army Division—the Fifth Armored, 83rd Infantry and an unidentified armor unit—reached the Elbe at several points extending from Barby, 10 miles southeast of Magdeburg, to Wittenberg, 56 airline miles to the north.

All three divisions were massing for a crossing of the Elbe, if they had not already done so, with the unidentified armored division closest to Berlin at Tangermünde, 45 miles from the capital.

Berlin spokesmen said retreating German troops had blown up the Tangermünde bridge and another at Wittenberg.

To the south, two other American armies—the First and the Third—smashed nearly two-thirds of the way across Germany to within heavy artillery range of Leipzig, transportation bottleneck through which Nazi troops were retreating south for Adolf Hitler's Alpine redoubt.

First Army tanks were 16 miles or less southwest of Leipzig. Third Army forces were 17 miles from Leipzig and 70 miles from Dresden.

Death Fight

Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the British 21st Army group, told his troops that the Nazis were engaged in a "last ditch" fight for the death in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps.

"The German military machine, which is in the hands of the Nazis, will never surrender," he said. "They will go on fighting to the last and will bring Germany down with them."

But even as he spoke, the American Ninth Army's "Hell on wheels" Second Armored Division was rolling across the Berlin Plain with the Elbe river, the capital's last formidable water barrier, far behind it.

A security blackout was thrown over the second armored division following its crossing of the Elbe yesterday, but the American broadcasting station in Europe said the Americans were only 49 miles from Berlin.

An even more spectacular report was broadcast by the Paris radio and credited to another station which it identified as "Voice of America." This version said Allied paratroopers had landed near Brandenburg at a point only 16 miles west of Berlin and been split in two, the Second Division.

The report was partly borne out by U. S. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson's announcement in Washington that Americans at some points were within 75 miles from a junction with the Red Army. Brandenburg lies 75 miles southwest of Russian troops in the big bend of the Oder river northeast of Berlin.

Latest front dispatches from the Ninth Army front did not mention any opposition on the approach to Berlin and the news which its tanks forced the Elbe river some 60 miles away indicated the Nazi capital might fall after only a token defense.

Ninety German divisions, probably the last sizeable operational force left in central Germany, were arrayed along the Oder river east of Berlin, but the Nazis command obviously hesitated to turn them west for fear of unleashing a mighty Russian tide.

The next 24 or 48 hours should prove decisive. An American breakthrough to Berlin probably would be followed quickly by a junction with the Red Army that would split Germany in two and clinch victory in Europe for the Allies.

Max Krull, German DMB Agency commentator, admitted that the western front had been split in two, the accepted sense of the word, he said, the western front no longer exists. It has given way to two fronts, one in northern and the other in southern Germany, he said.

Helling Across Plains
The Ninth Army's Fifth Armored Division also was rolling across the flat plains west of Berlin. It last was reported at Hesselburg, 15 miles northeast of Brunswick, but

NAZIS GLOAT OPENLY OVER FDR'S DEATH

BY W. R. HIGGINBOTHAM

London, April 13.—(UP)—The Nazis burst the last bounds of decency today and continued a vilification of President Roosevelt—even in death.

German propagandists gloated openly over the President's death. They poured out an abusive tirade that shocked the rest of the world, perhaps even Japan.

While the Japanese joined with the Germans in accusing Mr. Roosevelt of causing the present war, Tokyo conceded at least the president was a "great man."

But Berlin's commentators heaped abuse upon the president's memory. One commentator, in a speech which apparently was written by Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, said that the miracle which had saved Adolf Hitler had killed the "inventor of this war."

The commentator was Wilfried Vonofen, one of Berlin's best. But expert listeners said his remarks did not follow his usual tone and that they were termed much after the way Goebbels writes.

The broadcast was unusual in that Vonofen spoke in the first person. It broke all rules and it appeared obvious that Goebbels was directing the "hate" program against Roosevelt's name.

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Conference Will Go On As Planned

BY R. H. SHACKFORD

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Washington, April 13.—(UP)—The United Nations will meet in San Francisco as scheduled on April 25, determined now to create a memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt, a world organization capable of keeping the peace.

Mr. Roosevelt was one of the major architects of the new peace structure. His great collaborators—Premier Joseph Stalin and Prime Minister Winston Churchill—described him on his death as the world leader in the cause of ensuring security for the whole world.

To Stalin he was "a great politician of world significance and a pioneer in the organization of peace and security after the war."

To Churchill, whose friendship with Mr. Roosevelt began at the Atlantic charter meeting in the summer of 1941, he was "the world leader in the cause of freedom."

Mr. Roosevelt, who had done so much to prepare the United States this time to take its proper place in the new organization and to avoid the mistakes of 1920, had planned to address the opening ses-

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Reds Set For Berlin Drive

BY ROBERT MUSEL

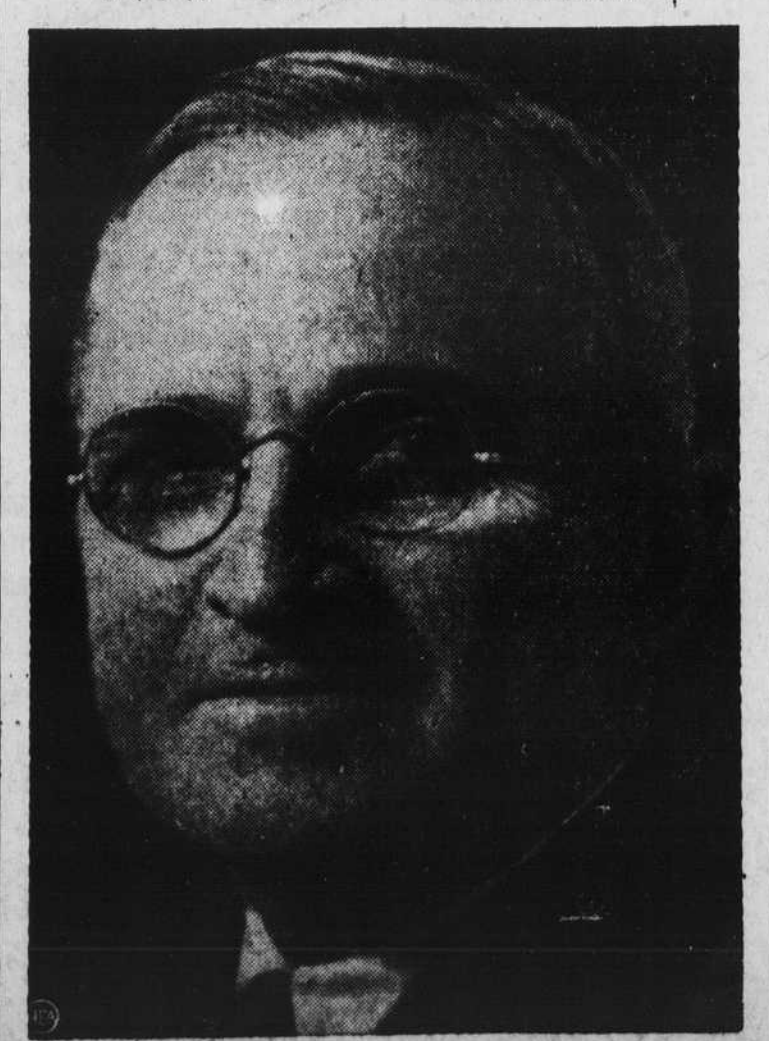
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
London, April 13.—(U.P.)—Fighting mounted in intensity on the eastern approaches to Berlin today and it appeared that the zero hour for the Red Army's march on the capital was close at hand.

Radio Moscow said Soviet troops were waging "fierce battles" from their bridgeheads across the Oder river 30-odd miles east of Berlin, but gave no details. Cossack cavalry moved up to the Berlin front earlier this week, Soviet field dispatches said.

Commentators on Berlin radio said vast Soviet troop movements were under way all the way from Stettin Bay north of the capital to the confluence of the Oder and the Neisse in the south, a front of at least 110 miles.

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New Chief Executive



HARRY S. TRUMAN

Nation's Voice Stilled



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Paralysis Victims Watch Cortège Pass

BY MERRIMAN SMITH

Warm Springs, Ga., April 13.—(UP)—The body of Franklin D. Roosevelt was borne from the "Little White House" of Georgia today to the roll of muffled drums, starting the long, last journey to Washington.

The hot southern sun shone in a blue sky as the funeral cortège left the green hills the President loved so well. The procession slowly moved down the winding mile-long road to Warm Springs station.

In the distance a church bell pealed from a country steeple. The cortège left the "Little White House" at 10:30 a. m. Along the road stood hundreds of residents of the President's "other home." They bared their heads and stood in silence as the cortège passed.

First came the U. S. Army band from Ft. Benning, Ga. The roll of its muffled drums carried softly over the countryside in the still, warm air.

Behind the band marched 1,000 infantrymen, led by three companies of carbine-carrying troops, followed by riflemen. Their colors flew black streamers to signify the mourning of the nation.

Then came the hearse bearing the President's body in a copper-lined, flag-draped mahogany casket. As the troops reached the little station across the tracks from the Warm Springs hotel and the little row of Warm Springs stores and business buildings, they deployed into company front and presented their arms at the salute.

Behind the hearse and at each flank was the honor guard of high naval officers, afoot. Next came Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, dressed in black, with a fur cape. She sat stiffly upright, outwardly composed as she had been throughout.

With Mrs. Roosevelt rode Pa'a. He sat quietly at Mrs. Roosevelt's

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Americans Battle Inland On Bohol

Manila, April 13.—(UP)—American invasion troops battled inland today on Bohol, the last of the major Philippine islands held by the Japanese.

Elements of the veteran American division landed on the southern coast of Bohol, which lies between Cebu and Leyte islands in the central Philippines, Wednesday against light resistance.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur said his troops, aided by guerrilla forces, were moving rapidly in an attempt "to secure control of the entire island before the surprised enemy could rally his strength."

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CITY STUNNED BY TRAGEDY OF FDR'S DEMISE

There was the factual certainty of the President's death in Waterbury today brought by the press, the radio and word of mouth, but the significance, the full import, the condition was a thing difficult to grasp by the city's residents.

People didn't discuss it too much today. That is, they didn't try to elaborate upon it. It was enormous in its shock and suddenness and you can't grasp enormity like that. You can't make it into something very intelligible or coherent—you can't sum it up.

It was there though. It could be felt like a great silence and pall in the midst of which people fulfilled their daily jobs and responsibilities and in the moment's concentration on such duties forgot its existence. Then almost instinctively they would turn to a neighbor or a fellow-worker or a friend met on the street and the first thing said would be "It certainly is awful, isn't it?"

Today the first shock is over, but last night the faces of the people reading the bulletins in the window of The Democrat were the grim, frightened faces of people who have suffered the loss of a leader in crisis.

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Stalin Hails FDR As Great Peace Leader

BY HENRY SHAPIRO

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Moscow, April 13.—(UP)—Marshall Stalin hailed President Roosevelt in death today as "a great politician of world significance and a pioneer in the organization of peace and security after the war."

Russians hearing the first word of Mr. Roosevelt's death were stunned and deeply grieved. Their reaction was believed representative of the masses, as well as their highest leaders.

The Russians never forgot the fact that Mr. Roosevelt was the first president to recognize the Soviet regime.

Mr. Roosevelt's warmth and simple manner won the hearts of every Russian on his personal staff at Yalta. His chambermaid, a 60-year-old peasant woman named Penya, who works on the third floor of the hotel Metropole here, said the president was "such a dear fine sympathetic man."

Mr. Roosevelt's warmth and simple manner won the hearts of every Russian on his personal staff at Yalta. His chambermaid, a 60-year-old peasant woman named Penya, who works on the third floor of the hotel Metropole here, said the president was "such a dear fine sympathetic man."

Penya wept when she heard of Mr. Roosevelt's death, as did staff who served the president. Later he sent them personal letters of thanks and commendation.

Stalin's tribute to Mr. Roosevelt was expressed in messages he sent to Mrs. Roosevelt and President Truman. That to Mrs. Roosevelt said:

"Please accept my sincere condolences on the occasion of the death of your husband, and my expressions of sympathy to you and your family."

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Elliott Roosevelt Flies From London

London, April 13.—(UP)—Brig. Gen. Elliott Roosevelt left for the United States in an American plane early today to attend his father's funeral.

Gen. Roosevelt was visiting friends in London last night when his Army chauffeur heard the news of the President's death on a British broadcast.

The chauffeur informed Gen. Roosevelt, who returned immediately to Eighth Air Force headquarters and prepared to leave for the United States.

DEMANDS DENIED

Washington, April 13.—(UP)—The War Labor Board today denied demands for a 17-cents-an-hour general wage increase, monthly cost-of-living bonus and a guaranteed weekly wage for more than 200,000 employees in 81 plants of General Electric Co. and Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co.

Month's Mourning First Edict Made By New Executive

By LYLE C. WILSON
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, April 13.—(UP)—President Harry S. Truman took the nation's helm today, summoning to the White House the chiefs of war and foreign policy to pledge his determination to carry forward President Roosevelt's objectives of speedy victory, and firm peace.

His first official act was to issue through Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., a proclamation of a month's mourning for Mr. Roosevelt.

But already he had plunged deep into the monumental task of carrying on the national war effort, without pause or hesitation, both in the west and in the east.

To the White House came Stettinius for confirmation of Truman's pledge that the San Francisco conference shall be held as planned and for affirmation of Truman's hope that at San Francisco will be erected the foundation stones of a permanent peace after the plans long advanced by Mr. Roosevelt.

And to the White House came the top leaders of the war effort to hear Truman implement the pledge he gave the nation as he was sworn in last night to succeed Mr. Roosevelt. The pledge was that the war would be prosecuted "on both fronts, east and west, with all the vigor we possess to a successful conclusion."

In the nation's sorrowing capital leaders of all shades of opinion shouldered up with pledges to stand with Truman and the nation in the sudden hour of tragedy.

From the senate Republicans came a pledge of cooperation "for the winning of the war and a successful peace at home and abroad." To which the Republican senators added an "expression of our faith and trust" in the man who until Jan. 20, 1945, had been their Democratic colleague from Missouri.

As Truman entered the White House with a brisk step at 9 a. m. this morning and sat down at the president's desk—still littered with the jumble of knick-knacks and curios which was Mr. Roosevelt's joy—the funeral cortège was forming up in the green Georgia hills at Warm Springs. At 11:13 a. m. EWT, the president's special train started its last, long journey northward.

At the White House Truman talked briefly with Stettinius who already had called in the representatives of the Big Four for a noon conference to affirm the pledge that the San Francisco Conference would go forward as planned. He arranged for issuance of the proclamation of mourning—30 days for the government and the nation and a half day closing tomorrow in respect to Mr. Roosevelt.

Then, he swung into his war duties. For 55 minutes he talked with the chiefs of the war effort—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of Navy James Forrestal, Admiral William D. Leahy, Gen. George C. Marshall and Admiral Ernest J. King, members of the joint chiefs of staff.

They left the conference grim-faced and silent. But there was no doubt of what they had told the new president—that the war in Europe stood at the verge of victorious conclusion and that the war in the Pacific was moving smoothly, if more slowly, toward the same end.

It was a mellow day in Washington, soft with the April sunshine. Outside the White House there was little to indicate that the helm of the nation had changed hands at a critical moment in the world's history.

But inside, in the cool oval room where for 12 years, one month and eight days Franklin D. Roosevelt had guided American destiny, sat a new president and commander-in-chief, once a Missouri farm boy and a man of background and career that could hardly have contrasted more vividly with that of the man whom he succeeds.

The new president gave no outward sign that his sudden responsibilities gave him any pause. He strode into the White House springily, like a soldier summoned to a new command.

His first task was to learn the top facts of a fast-moving world situation—a situation moving so rapidly on the European War front that even the general and high commanders hardly could keep abreast with the lightning pace of the American armored forces.

In the international field his first task was to quiet reassurance to America's shocked Allies, numbed by the loss of Mr. Roosevelt and worried about the future.

Already from London where Prime Minister Churchill summoned his cabinet in emergency session there had come fears that the president's death was a blow to the San Francisco objectives. Churchill was sending Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden to attend the President's funeral. There was no doubt that more than a gesture of respect lay in the action.

Truman Sworn In
The new president took the oath of office at 7:08 last night on word from Warm Springs, Ga., that Mr. Roosevelt was dead.

He asked Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet to "stay on" even before Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone administered the oath, which the new President took in the White House.

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